WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-partition computer system, comprising:

a plurality of cell boards, with each cell board including at least one main processor; and

a service processor that is connected to each of the cell boards;

5 wherein each partition includes at least one cell board, and the service processor manages operations of the partitions.

2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

each partition is running an operating system that is independent of the other partitions.

3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor communicates with the cell boards via at least one USB format bus.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

each cell board may be replaced while the computer system is on-line.

5. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor manages configuration of the partitions.

6. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor maintains security for the computer system to limit access to authorized users.

7.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor can command the operations of the cell boards.

8.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor can command the operations of the partitions.

9.   The computer system of claims 8, wherein:

the service processor can reset a partition.

10.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor monitors power requirements and determines whether a new component may be added to the system based upon the power required for the new component.

11.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor facilitates JTAG scan testing of the computer system.

12.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor monitors log events.

13.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor displays selected log events to a user.

14.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor monitors status of the cells.

15.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor displays the status of the cells to a user.

16.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor updates firmware resident in the cells.

17.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor monitors environmental condition of the cells.